THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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THE TERRIBLE COURT-MARTIAL: By an American Journalist

I have always wanted to see a court-martial. I have, I must confess, always stood in some awe of a court-martial. It may come from childish recollections of the Dreyfus affair, or from the smothered reports of the Ferrer trial, but somehow I have always pictured a court-martial as something tremendous. I imagined it as resembling the doctor's examination at the Sorbonne, a row of very severe-looking officers sitting around a high bench, and firing withering questions at the unfortunate criminal. But my dreams have been shattered. Now, when I think of a court-martial, I shall always think of Mill Hill, its small and dingy corridor, its dinky court-room, and its empty dignity.

When I heard that numbers of conscientious objectors were to be tried, I went to Mill Hill with great expectations. I had visions of a violent clash between two powerful ideals, between the strength of the State and the strength of the individual. There was no clash, there was no excitement; there was only monotony and a most efficient loss of time. The few interesting moments were entirely incidental; they were in no way the fault of the system. The accused and the soldier-witnesses were responsible for all of them.

I arrived just as the proceedings were about to commence. The prisoners, a few of their friends, their guards, and the soldiers who were to testify against them were all crowded into a little corridor outside the court-room, or what served as court-room. They were talking and laughing, and not in the least properly impressed by the solemnity of the occasion. It was the second offence for one of them; but, although certain of two years away from his wife and two boys, he seemed to enjoy the situation immensely. On the whole, it was much more like a happy family waiting for a picnic train than a group of desperate individuals, dangerous to the safety of the State, awaiting military trial.

As his name was called out, each man was marched between two soldiers into a very small and ordinary-looking room. Nothing could have been farther from what I had imagined. Three officers sat around an insignificant table, and instead of looking down from the height of an imposing bench, looked up at the prisoner standing before them. They did not keep up a string of withering questions, but carefully followed the procedure as outlined on the forms before them. In fact, they did not speak to the accused except when required to. The accusation was read. The prosecutor testified, judiciously stopping to give his fellow-officer time to write out in longhand what he had to say. Witnesses were then called in to prove that the accused actually "refused and did not obey the order" to undress for medical examination—or perhaps to put on khaki—when told to do so by some portly N.C.O. As he was sworn in, each repeated with terrified sincerity, "So help me God," and kissed the Bible with a loud smack, as if the truth of his statement depended upon the amount of noise he could make. The statement itself was invariably well rehearsed, with irrelevant but convenient pauses for the recorder. During his presence in the room, practically every witness stood at exaggerated attention, and shook from head to feet, lest he should make a slip that would displease his superior. I remember one especially. I wanted to tell him to calm down, or he would surely shake his khaki off—and it wouldn't be for medical examination.

The next relief came when the prisoner was allowed to say whatever he chose in his own defence. Of those I heard, all but one was read. They were very simple statements of the men's belief in God, and their abhorrence of War. The second-offender alone enlarged a little. He not only told the court what he thought of the whole military system, but what he thought of the court itself. He even predicted what his sentence would be; and no doubt his prediction has proven correct by this time. The proceedings then relapsed into formalities that continued until the prisoner was led away to the guard-room. Another man was brought in, and the whole business gone over again. Exceedingly monotonous!

If a court-martial were staged in the settings I at one time imagined it to be, or if a shooting squad were waiting at the door, it would be really imposing. But it is at present far from that. There is a certain amount of unimpressive dignity; the soldiers stand at attention, the court takes itself very seriously (or is extremely bored), everything is very formal. But one cannot help smiling when a number of men get together in a small room, and in a very dignified way publicly discuss another's refusal to undress at the bidding of a fat corporal as if it were the most serious of crimes—especially when the accused insists on remaining unconcerned. Personally, the only time I was impressed was when the man who had not prepared his declaration of faith stated his belief in Christ and in the brotherhood of man in a simple, homely way, searching for words he could not find.

As I think it over, I wonder why the whole thing is not done entirely away with. It would be much more simple to put the men in prison without formalities; and that would not waste the time of the officers, of the privates, and of the men themselves. Of course, if they all have plenty of time to lose, that is a different matter. But, even so, if it no longer existed it could not spoil people's dreams about the terrible impressiveness of a military court.

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"PEACE, VOTES, AND FOOD"

Down in the low crypt of beautiful York Minster they looked curiously at the barbaric capitals and vaulting, remains of the Norman church which once stood on that site, and the great piers hewn down to make way for the present Gothic building. Where the Norman masonry had been broken through the group of visitors could see the rough, herring-boned walls of the still earlier Saxon edifice.

"And here," said the guide, pointing to an ugly mass of dusty crumbling stones right in the centre of the place, "is the altar of the pagan temple to Bellona, the Goddess of War."

"They ought to heave it up into the church and keep it there till the War is over," said a pretty lady.

The guide was silent—perhaps he was shocked by her flippant words.

But above in the Minster are many emblems of savage warfare. Tattered flags that have been through this or that engagement, a wreath of faded roses to commemorate a battle, and numerous tablets carved with the sword and scabbard and all the accoutrements of militarism placed there in memory of men who died in Britain's wars of conquest. Puny desecrations, they are scarcely seen in the spacious vastness.

The great shafts soar above us, the cool, sweet colours of the jewel-glass look down.

"As the rose is the flower of flowers, so is this the House of houses," runs the old inscription. It is a house built by careful craftsmen who toiled with patient pleasure to make the glass and the hard, intractable grey stone picture the visions of their minds. Apostles of construction in a rude age of war, such as they, are the true men of peace, who all through time have sought to study and build, whilst men of war seek only by violence to destroy.

Outside the Minster soldiers, ill-clad in hideous khaki, are marching past, like dull automata, wasting their youth in the pursuit of savagery and preparing to burrow in the earth to hide from violent death as the far-off cave-man did. These men are but tools. The cave-man, at least, knew no master, and he in his dim slow way was groping upward whilst these poor fellows are being pushed back to the ideals and achievements of a more brutal age.

In the invaded countries the accumulated result of centuries of effort by architects, painters, sculptors, craftsmen of every sort is being swept away; but all over Europe humanity is suffering a greater loss in the destruction of what has been gained by ages of effort in human character-building. The self-discipline of the student and the artist which has found expression in his inner self and, through him, in that of his descendants, as well as in the work of his hands; the love of mothers for their children that has been growing from generation to generation, has passed with its sweetening influence into the race, the refining influence of civilised surroundings some measure of comfort—too little always for the poor—these things are being stamped out by the horror and hate of war and by the intensified struggle to live and the bitterness of starvation which is falling on large sections of people.

From Roumania comes news of awful food scarcity—eggs at sixpence each and chickens at 15 francs—this in an agricultural country where wages are very low. Cattle are said to be dying by hundreds for lack of fodder; alarming epidemics of cholera and typhus have fallen upon the people. The neutral nations have not escaped the general food shortage. In Sweden the people have long suffered serious privations, great food demonstrations have taken place and 20,000 people have marched to Parliament demanding food. The Government has determined to spend large sums of money on buying food for the people; nevertheless, grave popular unrest continues.

"Peace, Votes, and Food" are the popular cries heard with growing volume in every country. In Germany strikes of miners, munition workers and others continue. The strikers of Berlin have secured promises that profiteering in food shall cease and that a committee of workmen shall co-operate with the Upper Burgomaster in arranging the distribution, but still the strikes continue. The German Socialists of the Minority have endeavoured to secure the adoption by the masses of a programme demanding that the German Government shall declare its readiness to accept peace without annexations, the abolition of compulsory military service, the liberation of political prisoners, and complete adult suffrage.

It is reported that these resolutions have not yet been accepted by the general body of workers, but their acceptance is probably not far distant.

We regret that at present there seems to be no inclination to adopt this charter on the part of the British Labour Party, which appears to be the most backward amongst those of the six great belligerent nations. But too much importance must not be attached to the demand that a Government shall declare it does not desire annexations. Governments are apt to make such declarations whilst War continues, but if, having secured a victory, they find themselves able to wring from their vanquished opponents either territory or indemnity they disregard their pledges.

Kerensky, the Russian Minister of Justice, who represents the peasants' "Group of Toil" and is the only Member of the Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates in the Russian Cabinet, has told Mr. Thorne and his fellow envoys that democracy is now mistress of Russia, that the dream of the brotherhood of all nations is approaching realisation, and that the people of Russia have exercised so decisive an influence upon the Russian middle classes that they have "now renounced their imperialist aspirations." He called on the so-called Labour envoys sent by the British and French Governments to induce the workmen of Britain and France to exercise the same influence upon the capitalists of their own lands. We wish that Messrs. Thorne, O'Grady and Sanders had even the heart to do it! We wish that we could see welling up in Britain the spirit which produced the Russian Revolution, but we must admit that there is much truth in the comment of the German Socialist, Scheidemann, who said, "Unfortunately, it is not only Tcheidze and Kerensky who have authority in Russia." Kerensky forms a minority of one in the Cabinet, and Miliukoff and Gutchkoff, though they prate much of democracy, still desire a victory whereby they can carry through far-reaching War-aims.

Tcheidze was obliged to leave the great All-Russia Conference of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, to which he had been elected President, in order to attend the funeral of his little boy, who had shot himself whilst playing with a gun. The child's death might well be taken as an omen. May such a thing not happen to the new-born Russian freedom! The danger is great, for whilst War continues privations, hardships and sorrows must gather in heaviness upon the people. Daily the lot of the populace must worsen till at last, if the War continues, the unthinking masses might cry out that things were not so bad whilst the Czar was on the throne. Then might come the counter-revolution and a return of the old tyranny. History has examples of such reactions.

The news that the Committee of the International Socialist Bureau has at last decided to convene a conference of the Socialists of all nations comes as a brilliant ray of hope. Surely the reunion of old comrades in the International must do much to remove the fears, prejudices and misconceptions that during the War have parted the majority sections of the Socialist and Labour Parties of Europe into two hostile camps.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

MORE INHUMANITY.

"It will be a long war, taxing the resources of men, . . . and involving the individual effort of every true American."—Mr. Balfour, in New York.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY
City of London Branch

A DEBATE on "Should Peace be Negotiated Now?"

Affirmative: H. J. STENNING (I.L.P.)
Negative: Councillor FRED H. GORLE (Nat. Soc. Pty.)

Monday April 30th, 7.30 p.m.
AT
The Food Reform Restaurant, Furnival St., Holborn, W.C.
Chair: GEORGE LANSBURY
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ADULT SUFFRAGE

THE LORDS AND THE FRANCHISE.

Lord Curzon stated in the House of Lords that: "The Government would not press Parliament to accept the proposals of the Speaker's Conference in favour of Women's Suffrage and Proportional Representation." Since the Government has said that no Franchise Bill can be introduced which does not include women, Lord Curzon's statement may mean that the Government has been converted to Adult Suffrage!!!

ELECTORAL REFORM

The writer of the "Manchester Guardian's" London Letter announces that the Prime Minister has changed his mind, and though he began by saying that the Government could not proceed with an Electoral Reform measure if Proportional Representation were to be pressed for, the Government has now decided to put Proportional Representation in the Bill. Adult Suffragists, and especially women, should take note that persistence wins the day! We understand that the measure will be introduced into Parliament before Whitsuntide.

POLITICAL EQUALITY IN IRELAND

An Irish correspondent writes:—

"I wish to draw your special attention to the action of the Irish National Conference at the Mansion House on Thursday, 19th inst. A woman, Countess Plunkett, was appointed on the committee then formed for the purpose of organising the country to uphold the principles of the Republican Proclamation of April 24th, 1916. This committee represents, temporarily, the executive of the Republic, and is, for the time being, the supreme authority of independent Ireland; therefore, having a woman to act on it signifies the recognition of Irish Republicans of the political equality of men and women."

ARE WOMEN INFERIOR?

ANTI VIEWS ON BOTH SIDES.

In refusing the petition of Miss Georgina Frost, who claimed to have been elected Clerk to the Petty Sessions of Six-mile-bridge, County Clare, and who for five years had done the work for her father, the former clerk, Mr. Justice Barton, in the Dublin Chancery Division, said the disqualification of women rested "not upon any presumed inferiority of intellect or discretion," but upon "considerations of decorum, and upon the unfitness of certain painful and exacting duties in relation to the finer qualities of women."

* * * *

The Editor of the "Yorkshire Post" urges that women should be allowed to vote, and says:—

"We agree with anybody who states that there are many women quite as well qualified as very many of the existing voters to exercise the franchise for the benefit of the country. But it is impossible to select these out of the enormous mass of the unqualified, and we are distinctly opposed to any proposal for a wide extension of the franchise, which would necessarily swamp the whole of the professional classes, and those who are called the captains of industry. The real franchise question is one of balance. If the wealthy and educated classes alone had the vote, they would be liable to be dominated by class interests, and to ignore the needs of those who were outside their ranks. Hence the necessity for the latter to possess some countervailing power. These have, however, at the present time, a preponderance of votes, taking the country as a whole, and the proposed extension of the franchise to women—mostly uneducated, politically—would make the preponderance completely overwhelming. In 999 cases out of 1,000 the married woman would vote as her husband did, if the latter thought his direct interests were involved in any proposed scheme of legislation. What would be said—by women, at any rate—of a rising politician's wife who spoke and worked against her husband and in behalf of his opponent?"

MISS RANKIN

In the "Woman's Journal," Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Mrs. Laidlaw both declare that Miss Rankin did not weep or faint when giving her vote against War. They say that, though not agreeing with Miss Rankin's vote, it showed that she possessed both conscience and courage, for the pressure to vote the other way was enormous.

INJUSTICE TO WOMEN

We take the following from the "Weekly Dispatch":—

"A serious blunder, of the sort which will possibly become common enough if Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill becomes law, is reported from Brentford, where two respectable women were arrested, thrown into gaol, and medically examined by order of the magistrates.

"The two women had been to a dance and were returning home. At Hounslow Barracks District Railway Station there was a disturbance, and the police being called in, seized these innocent women and charged them with using "insulting words and behaviour"—tantamount to a charge of immorality. Not a shred of evidence was given against this respectable wife of a soldier, with a two-months-old baby, and her companion, a single girl.

"They were sent to Holloway Prison, bail being refused, and ordered by the chairman of the board to be medically examined. The result of this was sufficient to clear their characters, and as the police witnesses admitted there was no evidence against them, the chairman said he would discharge them *with a caution*. No apology for the outrage was made, and only after further evidence had been called as to character would the chairman consent to omit the caution. But still there was no apology."

CHINESE LABOUR

The All-Russian Conference of the Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates has declared that it has no objection to working side by side with Chinese or other imported labourers, provided they are employed on equal terms with Russians. That is the proper attitude to adopt, and it should apply to women also.

* * * *

In Germany British gold is said to be at the back of the strikes!

FOOD CONTROL AND THE W.S.F.

The Food Problem

The Food Economy Campaign Handbook says: "The food problem remains: It is up to the women to solve it, and win the War." Our reply is: "It is up to the women to solve it by ending the War." We believe that if the women would only unite, they could do it. Even the nationalisation of food, though a useful piece of Socialism, which should be continued after the War, would but stave off the ultimate certainty of starvation, for even this would fail to perform the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

The Food Question in East London

As a result of the food meeting held by the W.S.F. in Bow Baths on March 23rd, a deputation from the meeting waited on the Mayor. Following the deputation, the W.S.F. received an invitation from the Mayor to send delegates to a meeting to form a Food Control Committee, and Mrs. Cressall, Miss Smyth, and Mrs. Walker attended on the Federation's behalf. Miss Smyth and Mrs. Walker were elected to the Executive. The following letter has now been received from the Mayor: —

"Council Offices, High Street, Poplar, E.,
"17th April, 1917.

"Dear Miss Pankhurst,—Further to your request that I receive a deputation on the question of Food Control, I send you herewith a copy of the report I made to the General Purposes Committee of my Council. You will no doubt notice what I was contemplating being able to do. Unfortunately, the chairman of that Committee took exception to the Committee I had set up dealing with the question, and claimed it was for the Council as the Local Authority. I understand that the Committee in the main shared this view, and therefore the matter for the moment is hung up.—I am, faithfully yours,

"G. WARREN, Mayor."

"To the Chairman and Members of the General Purposes Committee.
"Food Control Campaign.

"Gentlemen,—In connection with the question of Food Control, the National War Savings Committee have requested the various Local War Savings Associations to direct now their attention to the important matter of Food Economy. The Borough of Poplar War Savings Association has been eminently successful in its operations, about 130 War Savings Associations have been formed, some of very considerable dimensions and all doing good work. It has now, at the request of the authorities, formed itself into the Borough of Poplar Food Control Committee, to which have been added a number of ladies and gentlemen, representing, as far as possible (with the time at our disposal) the various bodies and institutions in the borough. It will readily include others who may be desirous of assisting.

"Its first work will be in the direction of opening Communal Kitchens. The Ministry of Food says: 'It is realised that these are absolutely necessary in order to save waste in cooking, and to produce the food that is available well and wholesomely cooked.' It is hoped that within a reasonably short time one of these will be opened in the borough, and if proved to meet a real need, others will follow as soon as possible. The Food Control Committee trust it may have behind it the full force and influence of the Borough Council. There are other important questions to consider, and suggested developments to take place as occasion serves, and for the purpose of information I enclose a copy of the Committee's suggestions. In the meantime, on Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst., I received a deputation at the Council Offices of representatives of women's organisations* in respect of Food Control. I was accompanied by the Town Clerk and two of the hon. secretaries of the Food Control Committee, Messrs. K. G. Hobday and W. E. Nicholls.

The deputation laid before us in a quiet, orderly, and well-reasoned manner many points as to the difficulties that are being experienced in regard to supply and distribution of food. The fact, with which you are all conversant, that thousands of women have had to stand in this recent bitter weather for hours in a long queue, in the hope of obtaining a small supply of potatoes. That an apparently favoured vegetable dealer obtained a supply, whilst other shopkeepers were without, and that the dealer with supply employed only one man at the scale, thus creating further delay and avoidable waiting. They called attention to the prevailing practice on the part of some shopkeepers of compelling women to purchase articles they did not want at the moment, in the hope of obtaining a small supply of sugar they really did require. They drew attention to the fact (as they stated) that in the West End and richer parts of the Metropolis this did not obtain, but from inquiries they had made, supplies were generally forthcoming. They urged for a better adjustment in the matter of distribution, *and pleaded that at this time no one was entitled to more than their share.*

"They handed in the following resolutions and suggestions passed at a recent meeting of women:—

"'This meeting views with concern the growing acute scarcity of food and the appalling high prices, and demands that:—

"'(1) Private trading in food shall cease, and that the food supply shall be administered by the Town and County Councils, which shall use the existing shops as distributing agencies, paying the owners and employees of such shops a suitable salary on the lines of the system adopted by the Belgian Relief Committee.

"'(2) That to ensure a sufficiency of food for every family, a rationing system shall be introduced, and that, not merely the staple food of the poor people, but all kinds and qualities of foods shall be included and distributed according to their caloric value.'

"We urge that there should be:—

"'National buying for the civilian population, as there is for the military population. We suggest that this should be done by a commission containing representatives of the Local Government bodies, Trade Unions, and Women's and Working Class Organisations.

"'(3) County Councils to control flour milling, food preserving, etc., to be carried on on a wholesale scale, paying millers and manufacturers a salary for managing the business and paying the workers at Trade Union rates. County Councils to be empowered to open mills, etc., on their own account where necessary.

"'(4) Municipal distribution of food.

"'(a) A ticket system of rationing, tickets distributed by means of a house-to-house canvass and register of inhabitants taken by local authorities.

"'(b) Existing shops, restaurants, bakeries, etc.; to be taken over by municipalities; owners and workers to be paid salaries. Shopkeepers, etc., to account for their stock by the tickets for which they exchange it. Municipalities should also have the power to open shops, bakeries, restaurants, etc., on their own account.'"

I promised them that the Borough Council would take their application into consideration at the earliest moment, that we were not unmindful of the present difficulties, but that our powers were exceedingly limited.

In submitting their resolutions and suggestions, I fully appreciate how difficult some would be and how impracticable others. I do, however, venture to express the hope that the fullest consideration be given to them and to the present situation, and that to allay any feeling that may exist and to assure the people of our whole-hearted desire to help them to the full of our powers, we make recommendations to the authorities in the direction of that which we conceive practicable.—I am, Gentlemen, faithfully yours,

"A. H. WARREN, Mayor."

(* This was the W.S.F. deputation.)

The Food Controller's Powers

Powers under the Defence of the Realm Act have been conferred upon the Food Controller authorising him to commandeer establishments for the manufacture and sale of any specified article of food. Under this Order he is taking over the flour mills as we have suggested, but as yet no details are to hand. We urge that private profit in these establishments shall be eliminated and that the owners and managers shall be paid reasonable wages for doing the work—the pay of a Member of Parliament would seem a suitable sum. The employees, of course, should be paid the Trade Union rate of wages.

We further urge that the control of this immense enterprise shall not be left in the hands of the Food Controller, who cannot possibly supervise it adequately, but that the County Councils should be made the controlling bodies, subject, of course, to the central control of Parliament.

A System of Rations

The Institute of Hygiene suggests a compulsory Ration-book, in using which rations might remain voluntary. It believes that the fact that a record of purchases was required would have a deterrent effect on abuse, and especially on hoarding. The book would enable the housewife to acquire the habit of making up her weekly returns in a simple form, and as it could be sold to the public it need not cost the Government anything. If the Ration-book were put into operation no food, rationed or otherwise, would be sold without an entry by the tradesman in the book on the left-hand page, and in the case of a sale of rationed food the weight would also be entered in its own column on the right-hand, or dissection, page. At the end of each week the purchases of rationed food would be added up and entered under a weekly summary.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

Popular Government
Parliamentary Control of the Purse

Some Members of Parliament at last show signs of protesting that whilst "the foundation of the House of Commons is control of expenditure, the necessary knowledge is deliberately withheld. One hundred and sixty Members, representative of the right and left wing of all parties, have tabled a resolution demanding the appointment of a Committee of the House to review all national expenditure, examine Ministers and officials, and report to the House. In a letter signed Gershom Stewart (U.), Chas. S. Henry (L.), F. S. Banbury (U.), Percy A. Harris (U.), John Gretton (U.), Leif Jones (L.), Henry Craik (U.), G. J. Wardle (L.), F. W. Goldstone (Lab.), Godfrey P. Collins (L.), they point out that the present War expenditure is £7,000,000 day, and declare that "the new luxury of Government State Departments will, if it continues, smother the State."

We entirely agree with the stand which is being made by this Committee for Parliamentary control of the purse, though on most other questions we are diametrically opposed to some of the signatories to this letter. Since the outbreak of War we have been opposed to the growing practice of creating irresponsible Committees to manage this and that important matter. If the work of the State has outgrown the existing Department, we submit that any new Department's Committees which it was necessary to create should have been formed by and from Parliament. At the present time the popularly elected members of Parliament are treated as mere outsiders in the government of the country. Such Parliamentary Committees as that suggested for finance should be established in connection with every Department of State.

The Secret Session

There is to be another Secret Session of Parliament. In peace time we should seriously condemn the proposal: in War time it may be the only opportunity Members can find of forcing the Government to give to Parliament the information to which the elected representatives of the people are entitled. But at the last Secret Session the Government gave no information.

Human Milk

The tendency of the privileged classes to regard the working masses as mere wealth-producing machinery has become hideously accentuated during the War. The talk of "man-power" and "woman-power" is proof of this. Now, Sir J. Crichton Browne has been calculating the value of the milk produced by the nation's mothers, and he estimates that, charged at the same rate as cows' milk, it is worth £16,570 a day and £6,037,950 a year. In Continental countries it is very common for working-class mothers to wean their babies in order that they may give the milk which Nature provided for them to the children of well-to-do women who either do not wish to be bothered by nursing their offspring or are unable to do so. Happily, the practice is less common in this country. It is time it were swept away altogether: To bribe a mother to deprive her child of its milk should be made a punishable offence, especially as the poor mother whom money can tempt to do this is unable to provide for her child the expensive care obtainable by those who are able to pay for her milk.

The Fight for Humanity

Fifty thousand people in London die of consumption every year, and the sanatorium accommodation is inadequate even for the early cases, whose chance of cure is thus thrown away. On April 18th a deputation from the London Insurance Committee waited upon its chairman, Sir E. Cornwall, to urge these points upon him. He replied that the Local Government Board is considering whether the hutments now used by the Army can be converted into sanatoria for consumptives after the War. It is sad that the nation is only prepared to give to the fight for humanity what is left over from the fight against a section of humanity.

Republicanism

Mr. H. G. Wells has been writing to "The Times" to suggest the formation of an organisation in this country to encourage a Republican movement in Central Europe. Some people are always worrying about liberty abroad and ignoring the need for it at home!

But though Mr. Wells has expressly stated that his republican views are not to apply to this country, the "Times," the "Telegraph," the "Yorkshire Post" and the other Tory organs which are opposed to freedom for the people, whether at home or abroad, have given him a severe trouncing, and in spite of his protestations of loyalty to the British throne, have insisted that his proposal, in the words of the "Yorkshire Post," "must necessarily be regarded as an insult to our King and Queen."

The Fortunes of War

The Committee of Delegates of the Russian Socialist Groups deeply regrets to have to announce the death of two late members of the same Committee, Comrades Jan Janson (Brown) and Peter Karpovitch. Their invaluable work on the Committee helped us to realise the immense loss to international Socialism, occasioned by their tragic death at the very moment when they hoped to enter as free men in new Russia, to continue there their revolutionary task.

Their memory will live long among those for whom they sacrificed their lives.

No Equal Pay

The Corn Production Bill demands a minimum wage of 25s. for "able-bodied men." We hope this unjust clause will meet with strong opposition. Equal pay for men and women must be established.

WEST CENTRAL BRANCH OF W.S.F.
"AT HOME"
TO MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST
MAY 19th, 7 to 10 p.m.
Emily Davison Lodge Rooms, 144 High Holborn.

Not Christ, but Barabbas

The Plymouth correspondent of "The Times" says it does not like the conscientious objectors of Princetown in the Dartmoor prison, and "if it had the choice would probably prefer to have the convicts who until recently were confined in the prison." If it be true that any large section of people prefers the murderer to the man whose only offence is that he refuses to murder, the fact strikingly proves the deteriorating effect of War. It is as though the people of Princetown were offered the historic choice of Jerusalem. Do they answer —"Not Christ, but Barabbas"?

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It is said that, in deference to the Jingo agitation outside, the Home Office held an inquiry at Princetown, which will result in more severe discipline for the conscientious objectors and increased hardship.

Stephen Hobhouse Sentenced

We regret to learn that Mr. Stephen Hobhouse has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment. His crime was refusing to obey military orders.

"God has given us to-day the most perfect of summer days to end our holiday (in military detention in an empty house in Teignmouth).

"When I think of my 'two years,' I remember that I have had in these five weeks more than my fair share of holidays for 'two years'; and I remember the soldiers who have to go through hell and (closer parallel than they) the millions of factory hands and munition workers, toiling in prison-like Hoxtons, with scarce a glimpse of woodland and meadow, from one end of the year to the other."—(Extract from last letter written after promulgation of sentence, April 19th, 1917.)

"At my first Court-martial in Warminster in November last, when I was sentenced for the precisely similar offence of refusing to put on military uniform, I tried to make my decision quite clear.

"Four months of rigorous confinement in the prison cell have only confirmed my belief that the methods of war and violence, and, I may now add, those of the prison system, are not the ways in which aggression and evil are overcome. I still believe that the chief root of hatred and violence is our selfish clinging to property, and the unjust and unequal division of the earth's wealth, as between nation and nation, class and class.

"God is perfect love, and if our eyes are open, so that we can feel Him round about us, we shall be fearless and cease to dread any loss of property, of bodily liberty, or of life itself, dreading only any breach of Christ's law of love and forgiveness towards our brother man.

"And so I must persist in resisting to the utmost of my power, but without bitterness or ill-will, a system which is changing our free England more and more completely into one vast machine for the slaughter and starvation of another nation."—(Extract from statement made by Stephen Hobhouse at Court-martial.)

JUDGE NEIL

We deeply regret that owing to the non-arrival of Judge Neil from America, the series of meetings arranged for him either had to be postponed or addressed by others. We await news of him with great anxiety in these precarious days. An American correspondent writes of him:—

"Can a man over fifty make good in a new field? Henry Neil, whose campaign for Mothers' Pensions has been the most successful of any reform campaign in the history of the world, proved that the man over fifty can start things and win out. To prove that his campaign is historically record breaking, it is only necessary to tell that in less than six years he has caused to be adopted into the law of twenty-seven States an absolutely new principle—the Mothers' Pension. This is, next to the public school idea, the most revolutionary and the most promising.

"Six years ago Neil was a business man. He had seven children, lived in a suburb and paid no attention to politics or reform. But one night a friend took him to hear Judge McKenzie Clelahd speak on probation of first offenders. His interest was excited, and the next day he formed the National Probation League, which conducted a successful national campaign.

"'What becomes of the children of prisoners?' he asked and running the question down himself he found the Juvenile Court in Chicago taking the children away from their mothers. Hundreds of them were kidnapped. He saw mothers whose only crime was poverty, fall in a swoon as their children were taken away for ever. Neil had seven at home and the process horrified him. He found that this kidnapping is going on in every State. Its horrors have never been adequately told and never can be. He found charity organisations aiding in this kidnapping. Day after day he sought the facts. Out of it all came his idea of a Mothers' Pension Law—an idea conceived by others but never before by anyone who was so passionately determined to prevent the breaking up of homes, the destruction of mother love and of children.

"Fired by his anger and his sympathy with the children and their mothers, he became a writer and speaker, taking up work in which he had had no previous experience. No young man could have been more fertile in methods nor energetic in carrying them out. He proved that at least it is not impossible for a man to make good over fifty.

"Among the honours that have come to Mr. Neil since he entered public life is a public office, his neighbours in Oak Park, Illinois, having elected him without opposition to a judicial position, and hence his title Judge."

FOREIGN NEWS

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

According to the "Journal du Peuple":—

Nearly all Russian papers, including the reactionary "Novoye Vremya," declare themselves in favour of a Republic.

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It is reported from Copenhagen that the Workers' and Soldiers' Council in Petrograd has formed its own news-agency, which works independently of the Petrograd Telegraph Agency, and sends out news to foreign countries.

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The Russian Revolutionaries have published in the Swedish paper "Politiken" a manifesto, in which they declare that England did her utmost to prevent the political amnesty in Russia. Revolutionaries who are against War residing abroad are not allowed by the British Government to return to Russia.

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The Workmen's and Soldiers' Council in Petrograd published a manifesto to the proletariat of all countries declaring that the time has come to start the struggle against the conquest policy of the Governments of all countries. The time has come for the peoples to decide about War and Peace. Russian democracy declares that it will struggle with all means against the conquest policy of the ruling classes, and call upon the peoples of Europe for a common action for peace.

POLAND'S RECONSTITUTION.

The Allied Governments of France, England, and Italy have congratulated the Russian Provisional Government with regard to their proclamation of a united and independent Poland.

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Socialists of all parts arrive in Stockholm to reorganise the International . . . towards peace.

PRO CAUSA JUDAICA.

The Roumanian Government intends to grant to the Jews full political and civil rights. The Russian Revolution and the movement of American Jews in favour of the Allies found a strong echo in Roumania, and created the new policy.

THE ECHO OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT.

The Prime Minister, entering the Parliament in Buda Pest, was received by the Opposition with impetuous cries of "Long live universal, equal suffrage!" "Nothing else but electoral reforms can be discussed now in this House." The President suspended the meeting, and Parliament was adjourned.

The "Neues Pester Journal" announces that Hungarian Socialist-Pacifists held a secret congress in Buda Pest, and have passed a resolution declaring that the people of Hungary have no more rights than the Russian people before the Revolution, and that only the democracy of Hungary can enforce peace.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The Reichstag Commission in charge of the Revision of the Constitution began to work on April 24th.

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The town of Hamburg suggests the abolition of class suffrage.

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The German Socialist Minority has held a conference in Gotha to discuss the organisation of the Opposition. They have formed the Independent Social-Democratic Party. The deputies Ledebour and Hofer are the leaders. The first public manifestation of the new party was the great general strike in Berlin to demand "Peace and Bread." The police intervened, and many persons were wounded.

A general strike also took place in Leipzig; many participants have been wounded by the police.

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Great troubles are reported from Bulgaria. In Sofia demonstrators are marching through the streets carrying human skulls and bones on their forks. The infantry has fired into the crowd. There are many victims.

WHAT WILL CAUSE REVOLUTION?

Count Reventlow, one of the Northcliffes of Germany, declares that unless Germany wins the War the German Monarchy will soon cease to exist. We believe that if the War continues much longer the Kings and Governments of all the belligerent countries will be given their marching orders, not because they have failed to win the War, but because they have failed to end it.

NOTES FROM THE MIDLANDS

By OMNIFRAGE.

Sheffield has figured lately in the columns of the Press throughout the country. The attitude of its organised labour towards the Munitions Act in general, and to Sir William Clegg, Chairman of the Munitions Tribunal is, to say the least, unequivocal. Parliament, before it rested from its stupendous labours, heard but a faint echo of the noise of discontent which Sir William Clegg, by his dictatorial and capitalistic methods has engendered among the workers of the city.

Now what in substance are the charges brought against this leader of the local Liberal Party, whom the Conservative Press of Sheffield has admitted to be the City's autocrat? Briefly, he is charged with being a biassed judge, a tool in the hands of the many Sheffield ironmasters, that he displays a predilection to consider a workman guilty of an offence before he has been heard, and that he fails to observe the spirit of the Munitions Act if not the letter.

This is not a convenient place to deal with the merits of the charges. Nor, indeed, is it of importance when it is compared with the fact that the proletariat and workmen of Sheffield, through their various organisations, have declared themselves opposed to the further iniquities of the Munitions Act, and of the tyrannies of its presiding genius in their city. At the recent meeting of the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council when these sentiments were put forth in a mandate to the Government, Councillor Barton described Sir William Clegg as the Czar of Sheffield. Perhaps there was some truth in the statement of Mr. Farren, one of the workmen's assessors to the Tribunal, that the assessors were more often than not, afraid of Clegg; fearing to raise a voice in protest upon occasion of injustice. If this is true, then Labour was never more poorly served by its own adherents. Yet another assessor declared that Clegg was arbitrary as the mood took him, and that upon occasion the assessor might as well not have been. A third assessor, and this a lady, declared that she had nothing against Clegg "personally." I must confess that she appeared to be shilly-shallying. If anything is wrong with a Court where one man is the Court, then obviously the personality is the only factor to consider. But over and above these diversions, the significant point is to mark the temper of Sheffield workers as a whole.

At this particular meeting one delegate remarked that Russia was not the only country ripe for revolution. That has not been an isolated example of its kind.

On Sunday last Mr. J. F. Hodgson, of Reading, addressed a large meeting upon "Imperialism and the Revolution." That meeting was remarkable for two things, the unanimity of its large audience, and its attitude towards the probabilities of a revolution.

Mr. Hodgson, a speaker of sane restraint and lucidity, controverted the theory of Imperialism as a democratic ideal. He traced the growth of the British Empire, and revealed the capitalistic ventures that marked its growth from first to last. The idea that Britain was averse to war he discountenanced with the fact that during the reign of Victoria the Good, her soldiers had fought over forty Colonial wars of conquest.

The popular conception of the present War, he declared to be due to the nefarious policy of the "Lloyd-George-Northcliffian" press. Reading from the "Daily Mail" of 1904, he quoted amongst others the following comment relative to France. "The country where the most extraordinary injustices can be perpetrated with impunity. . . . shows neither courage, foresight, nor sense of honour . . . if the French do not cease their insults their colonies will be taken from them and given to Germany."

This sort of politics and government, said Mr. Hodgson, was not of the people but of the autocracy. Before criticising the German system of Government we ought to attend to our own, which permitted the majority of the Cabinet to remain in ignorance of secret treaties to within a few days of a world-wide War.

Mr. Hodgson was heard with marked attention by an audience which included many of the more thoughtful and able leaders of the working classes of the city. A similar audience is ready to welcome your editor when she comes among us this week. Yorkshiremen are, perhaps not spry, but once you get them to move they move slowly, steadily, and solidly. I believe they are beginning to move. There are many signs significant of great doings in the Midlands.

LABOUR DAY

A Mass Meeting

will be held at

HOLBORN HALL, GRAY'S INN RD.

On Tuesday, May 1st,

at 8 o'clock; doors open at 7.30

Chairman: JOHN TURNER,
Gen. Sec. Shop Assistants' Union

Speakers:

FRED BRAMLEY — J. FINEBERG
E. C. FAIRCHILD — ALEX. GOSSIP
D. CARMICHAEL — Dr. MARION PHILLIPS

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE on MAY 1st!

1st of May Celebration Committee:
CHAS. COOK, Secretary,
6 Lightfoot Road, Hornsey, N.8

Muriel Matters
will lecture on
The Montessori Method
and
Infant Welfare

At the MORLEY HALL, George Street, Hanover Square,
FRIDAY, MAY 11th at 5 p.m.
Hostess: THE LADY SYBIL SMITH
Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY will also speak

All interested in child welfare and education are cordially invited
Application for Tickets (admission free) should be sent to the "Mothers Arms", 438 Old Ford Road, E. 3. enclosing stamped envelope for reply.

ECHOES OF VICTORIA PARK

VICTORIA PARK MEETINGS.

A very successful meeting in favour of Peace by Negotiation was held in Victoria Park on Sunday, April 22nd. When we reached the Park we were informed that a meeting had been held earlier in the day to incite the people to smash up our meeting.

As soon as our lorry arrived the four speakers mounted it, and in a couple of minutes a crowd several hundreds strong pressed round it eager to listen.

The cry, "Don't let them speak," raised by one man did not find any response, and Mrs. Bouvier and Mrs. Drake were listened to with the greatest attention. There were a few interruptions during Miss Wilson Wilson's speech, and as the audience was showing signs of restlessness the Chairman closed the meeting, after calling for cheers for Peace by Negotiation.

Thus Freedom of Speech was upheld *at home*.

COMMENTS OF WELL-WISHERS

Dear Editor,—You have, of course, heard all about the disgraceful behaviour of the hooligans who broke up the meeting in Victoria Park on Sunday. It was one of the most revolting exhibitions of ignorance and passion that I have ever witnessed. I sincerely trust that none of the plucky people connected with the demonstration suffered any serious bodily harm.

There must have been damaged clothes, however, and lost hats, and I should be obliged if you would put the enclosed small amount with any other contributions you may receive to form a fund for re-equipping those who were losers—let us hope that they have suffered only a temporary check—in a good cause.

A WELL-WISHER.

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A Lewisham correspondent writes:—"I am sending a 10s. note towards the expenses of Sunday's demonstration. I wish one could be held every Sunday, but alas! the people say they want peace, but think it is beneath them to come out in the open, and the thought of walking in a procession horrifies them. Truly, one gets more ashamed of England and the English. I think the revolution in England is very far off—the people do not yet know what they have lost so lightly."

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A correspondent from Leeds writes:—"I can't for the life of me understand the London crowds. Of course, they would be a paid lot, and put up to the job; of that there can be no doubt."

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To the Editor of the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."

Dear Editor,—Just a line to express my sympathy with you and indignation at the abominable treatment your procession received at Victoria Park on Sunday last. I hope next time it will be different, and that the hooligans will get the treatment they deserve.—Yours sincerely, F. SEYMOUR COCKS, Secretary, U.D.C., London Federation.

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Dear Editor,—Bravo; but keep it up. There were large numbers of sympathisers about in spite of the rough usage. I'm sorry to say several I know were hurt a bit. My husband got his face punched, and my sister was thrown down and walked on. She says she is all right, but she seems very shaken. We had a contingent of about 30 from Dulwich. Wasn't it shameful! But it makes me very glad to think I can be proud of my friends, and not be one of the War cranks and War-at-any-price mob. We shall win yet.—Yours sincerely,

MAY E. HOGGINS.

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Dear Editor,—It was with the deepest regret that I learned from the Press that the Peace meeting organised by you and your comrades in London had been broken up. There seems to be an epidemic of hooliganism prevalent in the country just now. It broke out in Glasgow on Saturday on the occasion of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's visit to that city in order to address a conference on Industrial Conscription. The mob, however, was frustrated in its attempts to force an entrance into the hall. The police arrived only when a riot was imminent. The initial attack was repelled by I.L.P. stewards, unassisted by any police force, and one of the assaulting party retired with a wounded head. It seems to me that it is about time that London put up a firm fight for free speech, and made a desperate effort to hold its own. If the authorities won't lend protection, then other methods must be used. Can you not endeavour to organise a strong bodyguard and put up a strenuous fight for liberty of public meeting and free speech? We must not be defeated by a gang of roughs incited to violence and ignorant hatred by a debased and jingoistic Press. In the last resort we must be ready to deal firmly, effectively, and fearlessly with those "patriotic" individuals, in order to prevent such disgraceful scenes of hooliganism from occurring again. Cannot London muster a sufficient number of hardy Socialists to deal with the instigators of these inspired attacks?—Yours fraternally,

"DURON."

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The following letter appeared in the "Daily News":—

"Sir,—I was present in Victoria Park yesterday, but not near where the speakers' platforms were. I did, however, observe the cowardly conduct of a crowd 'chivying' one woman from the park. I saw no man actually strike her—though they pushed her violently—but I heard several distinctly encouraging their women to be yet more violent; and I saw one of these hit her from behind on the head violently with the butt end of an umbrella, and nearly stun her.—Ebenezer Howard, Letchworth, April 16th."

AN APPEAL

We appeal to all pacifists who are in sympathy with the Peace Campaign in East London to send a donation towards the broken windows at 400 Old Ford Road, E. The children and youths had been incited to do this damage, and in one instance, at least, we know were paid to do it. The cost of putting in the windows is £5. Donations already received:—Mrs. Girdlestone, £1; Mrs. Despard, £1; Mr. Brucher, 1s.; Mrs. Crabb, 2s.; for which we tender our grateful thanks.

A BOW CHOIR

A Singing Class will be held on Wednesday evenings at eight p.m. in the Woman's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. The services of a proficient teacher have been secured, and we ask all music lovers to help in whatever way they can to make the enterprise a success. We cordially invite girls and boys and men and women to join. First lesson, Wednesday, April 25th.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

April 17th.—Asked whether there was a shortage of food in this country, Captain Bathurst said: "No, sir . . . there is nothing of the sort. There is a prospective shortage of food, and it is for us to recognise it, and act accordingly." Potatoes, margarine, bread, etc., are evidently not articles of food!

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From questions referring to work of National Importance, we learn that out of the 163,161 volunteers dealt with by the Employment Exchanges, only 2,800 have been started at work.

A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

Mr. Ginnell (Irish) stated that the Censor in Ireland has stopped the advertisement in Irish newspapers of a portrait of Roger Casement, and prohibited shopkeepers from selling the portrait. Mr. Duke explained that the advertisements came under the Defence of the Realm Regulations! It is only natural that the Government wishes to have Casement and its dealings with him forgotten.

A PROLONGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

An Order for the Second Reading of the Parliament and Local Elections Bill was made, and Mr. Bonar Law justified this action by saying that this was the third time a Bill of this kind has been moved by each successive Government. A strong supporter was found in Mr. Asquith (L.). He pictured the many difficulties of a General Election now, including the lack of up-to-dateness of the register, the impossibility of those at the front voting, the shortage of paper, the postal arrangements. All of these arguments will not bear thorough examination for if the register is out-of-date the House of Commons has that fault in a higher degree, if the Australians in the trenches can vote so can the British, if endless rules and regulations and circulars can be printed by the Government so can electioneering papers; as for the postal service, the Government and various Controllers show no mercy to the postal authorities, but shower by post instructions and Food Economy booklets on the populace indiscriminately.

THREE MONTHS' GRACE.

Mr. Dillon (I.N.) proposed an amendment to stave off the evil moment for three months. He put forward the uncomfortable position of the Irish Party which was taunted with the fear of a General Election; but the Party did not shrink from that test therefore he was commissioned to move the rejection of this Bill. Mr. Dillon reminded the House of the opposition of the present Lord of the Admiralty to the last motion for the prolongation of the life of Parliament, saying:—"Dear me, what a change takes place in a man when he gets into office!" Only one thing would make Mr. Dillon less hostile to the Bill, and that was a surety that the great reforms based on the Speaker's Conference should pass into law, but he did not think the Government meant to do any such thing. Mr. Swift MacNeill (I.N.) supported the Amendment. So, too, did Sir C. Henry (L.) but from different motives. The intention of the Prime Minister to introduce a Franchise Bill, one of the provisions of which would be the extension of the franchise to women, was the reason of his opposition to the Bill.

Mr. Ginnell (Irish) urged that a General Election was wanted, not merely to renew the representatives of the Irish people in the House, but to remove the present Chief Secretary, whose only qualification seemed to be "absolute ignorance of Ireland and of the Irish people." On the other hand, the longer the House persists in ruling the country after its constitutional authority has gone the better it would be for him. By which he probably meant that the people not only of Ireland, but of this country would become thoroughly discontented, and be forced to act for themselves as they did in Russia.

The House divided, 286 voted in favour of the Bill and 52 against. A tame ending to the great excitement the Press had been predicting.

THE CASE OF THE "NATION."

On the adjournment, Mr. Pringle (L.) raised the question of the action of the Government in suppressing the circulation of the "Nation" abroad. He pointed out that the "Times" and the "Daily Mail" had published articles about the German retreat similar to the one in the issue of the "Nation," dated March 3rd. Although Mr. Pringle mentioned that the "Labour Leader" and "Herald" are also banned, he did not venture to explain why he did not move the adjournment of the House to protest against the banning of those papers. Mr. Lloyd George honoured the House by coming to defend the action taken against the "Nation." He said the article in the issue of March 3rd was discouraging to the men at the front and objectionable to the Allies who made representations about it. The proprietary of the "Nation" was a "purely pacifist" one, sufficient argument in itself, he seemed to imply.

Mr. Lloyd George laid great stress on the magnanimous attitude of the Government in not restricting the publication of the "Labour Leader" or "Nation" in the British Isles, and said:—"There is no restriction of freedom of speech and discussion within the limits of this country." Oh, oh! Is the Defence of the Realm Act only applicable abroad? Mr. George would seem to have lost all idea of what freedom and liberty may mean, or else he deliberately tells a falsehood to support a bad case. Is it any wonder that the Irish have no faith in the pledges of men like this?

Mr. Churchill (L.) gave the Prime Minister a lively time, and demanded "clear rules and definite principles upon which censorship is administered." Commander Wedgwood (L.), though not in favour of the "Nation," supported the motion for the sake of "our good name." The most amusing case of change of face was that of Mr. Herbert Samuel (L.), who said:—"If you are in doubt in these cases . . . . the only safe rule is to give the decision on the side of liberty"!!!

Mr. Bonar Law, who, at question time, made the Cabinet responsible for the step taken, regretted that it was not possible during the War to preserve the freedom which this country always enjoyed.

THE GRATUITY MAN.

In reply to Mr. Hogge's (L.) demand for information as to the scale of gratuities, Mr. Barnes explained:—"We do not want to publish a scale because we do not want to mislead anybody." He assured the House that those who have been discharged as medically unfit shall get "a more or less substantial gratuity." The maximum, it must be remembered, is £150.

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April 18th.—In reference to the sugar question, Captain Bathurst stated:—"If conditional sales of sugar are still being made it is contrary to the orders of the Food Controller, and if the necessary information is given prosecution will take place."

We fear there would be more than enough work for the prosecutor; because one always has to spend a certain sum to obtain sugar. The usual expression is:—"I'm afraid I can only spare you half a pound of sugar to that quantity of groceries."

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Mr. King (L.) recounted that the Tsarist Russian Government had sent conscientious objectors to military service to Siberian detention. These men were now liberated and doing work of national importance in their own country. He asked whether the example of the Russian Government will be followed. Mr. Macpherson hastened to explain that C.O.s who are doing work of national importance are not imprisoned here either.

U.S. AN ALLY.

Mr. Bonar Law moved: "That this House desires to express to the Government and people of the United States of America its profound appreciation of the action of that Government in joining the Allied Powers, and thus defending the high cause of freedom and the rights of humanity against the gravest menace by which they have ever been imperilled." Mr. Asquith (L.), Mr. Dillon (I.N.), and Mr. Wardle (Lab.) spoke in favour of this motion. Mr. Ginnell (Irish) moved amendments proposing the postponement of this matter until after a new Parliament has been elected, but was ruled out of order.

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The Committee stage of the Parliament and Local Elections Bill was then taken. Various amendments were moved and negatived. Major Newman (U.) moved that the clause postponing local elections should be operative only in Great Britain. He received no support from the Irish Party. Mr. Dickinson (L.) moved that the 30th November, 1917, would be the date of the Parliamentary election. This would enable the local elections to take place as usual in November. Mr. Bonar Law refused to accept the amendment in the House of Commons, but promised that it would be introduced in the House of Lords. The third reading was taken, and the Bill was passed.

THE CZAR'S REGIME AND PEACE.

April 19th.—Mr. Outhwaite (L.) drew attention to a statement of General Hiescu, former chief of the Roumanian General Staff, that the Russian Government compelled Roumania to take up arms on behalf of the Allies in July. Its aim was to secure her defeat by the Central Powers, and thereby a reason for Russia making peace. Lord Robert Cecil replied that he knew nothing of the fact until he read the interview; but he did not deny the statement!

PEACE PROPOSALS.

Sir Williams Byles (L.) asked whether the Government regarded the defeat of Von Hindenburg in Easter week as the decisive victory which has been waited for to propose negotiations for peace? Mr. Bonar Law said the answer was in the negative. He evidently sticks to the "Knock-out Blow" theory.

EDUCATION ESTIMATES.

Mr. Herbert Fisher proposed: "That a sum, not exceeding £13,565,780 (including a supplementary sum of £3,856,000), be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1918, for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including sundry grants-in-aid." In a long speech he tried to bring home to the House the lack of perfection of the present educational system. To counteract this, Mr. Fisher laid stress on the necessity of increasing teachers' salaries which he admitted were far too low. "Even teachers are human," he urged, and they ought to be financially independent of worry. To this end the Government will contribute 60 per cent. to the teachers' salaries. In order to help poor districts and put them on the same level as others, the grants to these districts will be higher. The sum voted seems to be inadequate if any real reforms are to be made. With reference to secondary schools, whilst admitting that free secondary education is "an ideal with which I have very great sympathy," he argued that those who could afford to pay should do so, thus enabling the poorer students to enjoy secondary schools. Although he explained that a "caste system" in education should be avoided, it does not seem that this is the way to do away with it. Mr. Fisher pointed out that the teachers in England were on the whole less qualified than those of any advanced country. Yet this four million pounds which would not pay for one day of War, is expected to encourage all Mr. Fisher's very necessary reforms, which, if carried out, may put British education on a proper basis. Every speech made was in approval of the motion with the exception of that of Sir F. Banbury (U.), who said he "did not want ideals but facts," and seemed to want to continue to urge what he called "economy." Commander Wedgwood (L.) opposed the idea of raising the school-leaving age on the ground that parents living on £2 a week with five children cannot postpone the wage-earning age of those children. An argument which may be answered by denouncing the system which forces parents to throw half-grown children into the labour market to work at sweated rates. But Commander Wedgwood made a plea for the C.O. teachers who are being sent to prison. He asked for them to be left alone, and allowed to continue their useful work of teaching instead of being an expense and a burden on the community. An Irish Member rose to welcome the proposed improvement in English education, but was told that he should not mention Ireland as this proposal did not affect that country. Of course, when a measure of any possible value is introduced at Westminster, Ireland is somehow not included—though in this instance reforms are even more urgently needed in Ireland than in England, if that were possible.

BEWARE, CHEAP MEAT!

April 23rd.—Mr. Field (I.N.)) recommended that partially tuberculised animals should not be destroyed. He stated that all over Europe such meat is sterilised and sold at a cheaper rate, and that in Dundee recently this was done. Whether bovine tuberculosis be communicable to man remains to be proved, but surely it will be the poor who will have to suffer if it is.

FOOLISH ECONOMY.

The meaningless prohibition of Whitsuntide school treats was pointed out by Mr. Jowett (Lab.). Captain Bathurst said in reply that the Food Controller would not reconsider the matter. Thus children must forego simple pleasures to prove to the country that food is being controlled!

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Mr. MacCallum Scott (L.) pointed out that the article which caused the foreign circulation of the "Nation" to be suppressed appeared in the "Pall Mall Gazette" last week. Mr. Macpherson assured the House that no action was proposed to be taken. He also refused to produce the letter which the Commander-in-Chief in France was alleged to have written requesting the suppression of the "Nation."

FREE RUSSIA.

Representations were made by Mr. Snowden (Lab.) and Mr. Outhwaite (L.) that a delegation from Russia be invited to this country to enable an exchange of views to take place. Mr. Snowden repeated that the men who had gone to Russia to represent Labour had been sent by the Government to carry out the Government policy. Lord R. Cecil promised to consider the suggestion. But Mr. Devlin's (I.N.) proposal that representatives of free Russia should be invited to consider the government of Ireland was met with insolence. Lord R. Cecil replying: "I do not think I should like to impose that burden on anyone!"

Mr. Ginnell (Irish) again asked for the Russian example to be followed in reference to the Irish prisoners and those deported last February. The Government, however, still hangs back.

THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM.

Major Newman (U.) is not happy about the Russian rejoicings in Great Britain over the freedom of their country. He wishes them to be made to fight for their country. Mr. Bonar Law replied that steps are being taken to reach an agreement with the Russian Government as to the best use to be made of Russians of military age resident here.

VENEREAL DISEASES BILL.

Mr. Hayes Fisher asked for a Second Reading of the Bill for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases which Lord Rhondda introduced into the House of Lords. This Bill makes it illegal to dispense any drug or other preparation as a remedy for venereal diseases unless on the written prescription of a qualified doctor. It will only operate, however, in areas to which it is applied by Order of the Local Government Board; free centres for the treatment of the diseases must have been set up in that area before the Government can apply the Bill to it. Mr. King (L.) objected to the Bill on the ground that it was going the wrong way about eliminating the disease. He stood out for the liberty of the unqualified man to pursue his calling, and quoted Mr. Barker's gifts in the art of healing, although he was not qualified as a surgeon. Captain Guest (L.) recounted the ravages of syphilis in the Army, and stated that if the reports were true of the numbers infected, it meant that a whole Division was constantly out of action. He reproached the Government for making no attempt at providing hospitality for soldiers strange to London, such as the Canadians, 7,000 of whom have contracted venereal diseases during sixteen months. Other members joined in the condemnation of the War Office neglect of soldiers. Captain Guest seemed much in favour of compulsory methods both for the Army and the civil population. Mr. Glyn-Jones (L.) showed the lack of foresight in prohibiting the sale of articles in some districts and not in all. He suggested, instead, that advertisements of remedies for venereal diseases should be forbidden. Mr. Dillon (I.N.) termed the Bill panic legislation. He went to the root of the evil by urging that the moral and economic causes were those which ought to be dealt with. This Bill and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill were "legislation against one sex . . . . and contain proposals which some of us will fight to the bitter end before we allow them to pass, because they are scandalously unjust to the unhappy women on whom they would fall." For that reason he moved that the Government withdraw both Bills.

CONSCRIPTION OF HOMES.

Dr. Addison introduced what he termed the Billeting of Civilians Bill. By this legislation a number of welfare Committees would be set up, whose duties would consist of procuring lists of possible lodgings, arranging the amount to be paid for board, inspecting these houses from time to time, and similar pleasant tasks. The Bill, Dr. Addison seemed to think, was going to meet the shortage of accommodation in Barrow, where several Members said there were no houses to be commandeered in this way. Dr. Addison was spurred on to planning this unheard-of encroachment on the private life of citizens by the impression made by a deputation of Barrow munition workers—women whose total earnings amounted to 23s. a week, and who had to arrange their sleeping accommodation by means of a shift system. That he should legislate for a compulsory living wage does not seem to have occurred to him, though it might not cost more than the expense of another Department with endless officials. A splendid protest was made by Mr. Hogge (L.), who reduced the Bill to an absurdity. He termed it an inquisition, worse than the Spanish Inquisition. The objectionable circumstances which could arise from billeting rough working-men on unprotected women, and the idiocy of denying these women the right to turn them out without referring the matter to the local committee were condemned wholesale. Mr. Anderson (Lab.) pointed out that the domestic liberties of the people were infringed on, and Mr. Pringle (L.) said it was a case for better wages, not compulsory billeting. No girl could possibly live away from home on 23s. a week, and if it was allowed all the Criminal Law Amendment Bills were useless. Mr. Jowett (Lab.) dealt a blow home, by pointing out that if the Ministers themselves were concerned, they would not consent to having a lodger forced upon them. The only reason for being a little friendly towards the Bill, Mr. Outhwaite (L.) said, was if an assurance were given that the owners of country mansions would be compelled to find accommodation and food for the workers. The House divided, 76 voting for the Bill, 31 against.

C.O.s.

Sir Kinlocke-Cooke (U.) made a protest on the adjournment against the Princetown C.O.s who left the Church whilst the National Anthem was being sung, and who were given an Easter holiday. He belongs to those who are not satisfied with the terrible suffering of our times, but would make things more rigid still.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE (to celebrate May-Day) will hold

A GRAND RE-UNION

at the HOLBORN & CONCERT HALLS, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.

SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 1917

Dancing, Speaking, &c., from 6.30 p.m. to midnight. Doors open 6.30 p.m.

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Mr. Percy Harvey's Band will be in attendance
M.C.s—F. C. Haggar and F. Furbman

Speakers: George Lansbury, Tom Mann, Maude Royden, Muriel Lester
H. W. Nevinson, Francis Meynell, William T. A. Ford

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WHAT'S ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 27th.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, APRIL 28th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Hoxton Street, 2.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SUNDAY, APRIL 29th.
Highbury Corner, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Victoria Park, 4 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
MONDAY, APRIL 30th.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
TUESDAY, MAY 1st.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2nd.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, MAY 3rd.
Cannon Street Road, Commercial Road, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, MAY 4th.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, MAY 5th.
Well Street and Morning Lane, Hackney, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Bonner Lane and Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Fire Station, Hoxton, 2.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "At Home," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—To-day (Saturday), 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook"; Mr. Philip Frankford, "Socialist Bureaux." May 5th, Mr. G. P. Gooch, "The Future of Constantinople"; Miss M. O'Callaghan, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road.—To-morrow (Sunday, April 29th), 7 p.m. Mr. Maurice Gregory, Secretary of the Society of Friends, "The Criminal Law Amendment Bill." Chair: Mrs. Boyce. Singing Class Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m., Speakers' Class, Mrs. Boyce.

BROMLEY, 53, St. Leonard's Street.—Monday, April 30th, 2 p.m., Mrs. Drake.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, April 25th, 8.15 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

OLD GRAVEL PIT HALL COMMITTEE ROOM, Valette Street, Hackney.—Tuesday, May 1st, 7 p.m., Miss Thomlinson.

CANNING TOWN, 124 Barking Road—Wednesday, May 2nd, 7.30 p.m., Branch meeting, Miss Smyth.

LEES HALL, Barking Road.—May 6th, 7 p.m., Judge Neil, "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Mary Neal. Chair: Mrs. Drake.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

At Kingsley Hall, Bow, on Sunday next, April 29th, Mr. John Scurr will speak. Discussion 9.30.

William Morris Hall, Somers Road, Walthamstow, May 1st, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

May-Day Labour Demonstration, Finsbury Park, May 6th, 3.30 p.m. We understand the Committee is endeavouring to organise a children's contingent. All progressive Societies and Trade Unions are asked to bring their banners. All communications and subscriptions should be sent to L. S. Howard, 75b Grand Parade, Green Lanes, Harringay, N.

Tuesday, May 1st, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. Williams will speak on "Base Camp Life in France," in Emily Davison Lodge, 144 High Holborn, W.C. Refreshments till 8.15. Suffragettes of W.S.P.U. Admission 9d.

MANCHESTER.

Clarion Café, Friday, April 27th, 7.30 p.m., Miss Owen on "Mothers' Pensions"

Judge Neil
and
Miss Sylvia Pankhurst
in
WALES

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th 2.45 p.m.
THE RINK, MERTHYR
Admission by Silver Collection

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th 7.30 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, ABERAMAN
Chair: Mrs. ROSE DAVIES
Admission by Silver Collection

PUBLIC MEETING
Victoria Park, To-Morrow
SUNDAY, 4 p.m.
Speakers: Mrs. BOYCE and Miss PRICE

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LONDON

BARKING.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

BOW.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Hon. Secretary: Miss Stevens. Branch meetings are held every second and fourth Monday. Next meeting, Monday, 30th, 8 p.m. Business:—Annual Conference Resolutions. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending April 21st, 515; Miss Harriet, 120; Miss Mackay, 32; Miss Hepburn, 26; Miss O'Brien, 25; Mrs. Greer, 12; general, 300.

BROMLEY.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

CANNING TOWN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

CENTRAL LONDON.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Casey, 29b Lincoln's' Inn Fields, W.C. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 78.

ENFIELD AND EDMONTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

HOXTON AND SHOREDITCH.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.—This shop is open daily for the sale of Socialist, Labour and Feminist literature. Hours, 12 noon to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m. Closed all day Thursdays. If you deal with us you will help the funds. Branch meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m. Next on May 3rd, speaker Miss Lynch. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 162.

LEYTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 52.

POPLAR.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagsding, 20 Railway Street.

TIDAL BASIN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road. DREADNOUGHT sales average 36.

ST. PANCRAS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

WILLESDEN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12. Branch meetings, Monday 30th, 7.30 p.m., and alternate Mondays at B.S.P. Hall, 148-150 High Road, Willesden Green, N.W.

PROVINCES

BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 226.

BRADFORD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRIGHOUSE.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Woodhead, Wood View, Shelf, near Halifax.

BRYNMAWR AND NANTYGLO.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

BURNLEY.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.; Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

CHOPWELL.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

CORNSAY AND QUEBEC.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Winter, 196 High Street. Branch meeting, Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

DONCASTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

FERRYHILL.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Key, Bradford Road.

HULL.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Bryan, 91 Derringham Street, Springbank.

LEEDS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 72.

LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helen Bakewell, 28 Macdonald Street, Bellgrave. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilevski, 18 Broughton Street, N. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

MEDOMSLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

PRUDHOE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 39.

ROTHERHAM, WAKEFIELD.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, 33 Hopwood Street, Hull.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 156.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Samuel 33, Mount Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

STIRCHLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton, Birmingham; Assistant Sec.: Miss Shepley.

YORK.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hall, 43 Lowther Street.

WORKINGTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Martin Howard, 48 Beeby Street.

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

The Conference on "Mothers' Pensions," held in the Priory Rooms on Saturday, April 21st, was attended by a large number of delegates. There was great disappointment and anxiety caused by Judge Neil's absence, but Mr. G. Lansbury, who spoke in his place, was given a very cordial welcome. The Chairman told the delegates of Judge Neil's work, and spoke of the great necessity here in England for a similar crusade.

Mr. Lansbury spoke at length on the conditions affecting children here—the Poor Law arrangements by which children are denied a mother's care, the awful existence of the widows who struggle to maintain their little ones, and the penalising of the illegitimate child and its mother. He recommended reform on the lines of the Scotch system, saying that the Health Committees should judge of cases and not the Poor Law Guardians.

Mrs. Henson, W.S.F., moved the following resolution:—

"That this Conference of Women's Societies, Trade Unions, Women's Co-operative Guilds, Women's Adult Schools, Woman Suffrage Societies, Temperance Societies, Trades Council, Labour and Socialist organisations, calls upon the Government to follow the example of the American States, and introduce a scheme of Mothers' Pensions without delay."

Mrs. Barrow Cadbury supported the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

STIRCHLEY.

The evening meeting at Stirchley was very successful. Miss Margaret Haly took the chair, and Mr. Lansbury again spoke.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution against Clause II. of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill now before Parliament, and also the following:—

"This meeting calls on the Government to follow the example of the American States and introduce a scheme of 'Mothers' Pensions' without delay." A. B.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—J. Coleman, Esq., £6; Miss D. M. Kent, £1 19s. 10d.; Mrs. Girdlestone, £1; Mrs. Despard, £1; Irene, per Mrs. Drake, £1; Mrs. Branch (monthly), 7s. 6d.; Miss L. Cutten (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Tollemache, 2s. 6d.; Arthur Field, Esq., 2s.; Mr. Bracher, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Miss Price (two), £1 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Boyce (two), 14s. 4d.; Chandos Hall, 7s. 4d.; Miss Stephen, 5s. 6d.; Bow Women's Hall, 2s. 6½d.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Per Mrs. Drake, £1 10s.; Miss Mackay, 5s.; Miss L. Bent, 3s.; Mrs. Moore, 1s. 4d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Lady Stalbridge, £5; Misses Avril and Prunella Pott, 6s.; E. H. Jenkins, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Gillies (monthly), 4s.; Mrs. Clarke (Birmingham), 2s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 9s. 7d.; Mothers at Bow Clinic, 16s.; Miss Mackay (churn), 8s. 8d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Mrs. Minturn Scott, Anon (woollies), Anon (shoes), Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Parry.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
REPORT OF FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, 1917.

The First Annual Meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the Workers' Suffrage Federation was held by the courtesy of Mrs. Henson, at 85 Watford Road, Kings Norton, on March 27th, 1917.

The Secretary's report and balance-sheet was read and approved by the meeting. The meeting decided unanimously that no delegates could be sent this year to the forthcoming W.S.F. Conference.

A resolution for Conference was passed, viz.:—"That this Conference strongly disapproves of the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference and demands Adult Suffrage as the only possible solution of the Suffrage problem."

The following officers and members of committee were elected:—President, Mrs. Butler; Secretary, Mrs. Henson; Treasurer, Mrs. Durant; Committee, Miss A. F. Boden, Miss Manning, Mrs. Avery, Miss Shipley, Mrs. Death, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. Morcombe.

The business meeting was followed by a social evening, which was entirely arranged by Mrs. Henson. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Henson for the use of her room and for her efforts which made the evening such a great success. A vote of thanks was also passed to Miss Boden, in appreciation of her work in connection with the meetings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, MARCH, 1917.

The Birmingham Branch of the Workers' Suffrage Federation was formed in March, 1916, Mrs. Boyce coming from London to start the organisation. A large number of meetings have been held during this first year, chiefly in Stirchley Institute. Sixty-seven members have joined, but only 28 have continued their subscriptions all through the year.

During the summer months the work was mainly confined to selling the DREADNOUGHT, but in September fortnightly meetings were begun with a social evening. The fortnightly meetings have been continued throughout the winter, a number of them being devoted to the making of garments for the sale in London, and at others Miss Margaret Haly has given a series of educational lectures on "Internationalism." A large meeting was held on Saturday, March 17th, in the Priory Rooms, Birmingham, at which Miss Pankhurst spoke, and at which Miss M. Haly kindly took the chair. The amount in hand from the year's activities is 18s. 1½d.

(Signed) A. F. BODEN, Hon. Sec.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

HALL TO LET, for meetings, etc. Holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply, Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

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Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

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In view of the shortage of paper and the various difficulties which war measures put in our way we ask our friends to make sure of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT by using one of these coupons. If you desire popular liberty to have a staunch defender, hasten to give the DREADNOUGHT all the support you can.

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